

Sport

Column One
SPORTS TALK

Jonty Rhodes
(South African cricketer)
"The best way to remind the selectors that I am there is to score runs."

Sports

WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Sports WHIZZ KID competition-64

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Competition closes 8 pm, Feb 28, '97

1	Who finished runners-up in the Premier Division cricket league?	Human	Kalabagan	Brothers
2	In the ICC Trophy, Bangladesh will be led by	Bulbul	Nannu	Akram
3	The eighth SAF Games will be held in	Nepal	Bhutan	Sri Lanka
4	Where was Martina Hingis born?	Switzerland	Hungary	Czech Republic
5	Name the skipper of the Zimbabwe cricket team.	A Flower	Campbell	Houghton

Name
Class Roll No.
School Address
Phone: (if any)

Graf plans a pause

BONN, Feb 22: Steffi Graf announced on Friday she will be out of tennis for the next four weeks with a recurrent left knee injury, missing a Federation Cup tie and events in Indian Wells and Key Biscayne, reports Reuters.

Graf, who had to pull out of the Pan Pacific final in Tokyo three weeks ago with the same injury, told reporters she had been ordered not to pick up a racket for four weeks because of an inflammation of the patella tendon.

World number one Graf had been due to play in Germany's first round of the Fed Cup tie against the Czech Republic on March 1 and 2 in Mannheim, not far from her home town of Brühl.

"I really wanted to play on my own doorstep. The fact that I'll be missing obviously, isn't that good for the event," said the Wimbledon, US and French Open champion, who will also be unable to defend her titles in Indian Wells starting on March 3 and Key Biscayne beginning on March 17.

"Maybe I could have managed to play by hook or by crook, in spite of the injury, but I really want to avoid the knee of setbacks I had in Tokyo or (pulling out of the semifinal in October) in Leipzig," she said.

Graf's absence from the two US tournaments means she may be in danger of ending her record-breaking run as world number one, and have to make way in April for Switzerland's 16-year-old Australian Open champion, Martina Hingis.

Graf said she was determined to be fit for the start of the European clay court season, adding: "My main goals are of course the French Open and Wimbledon."

Sri Lanka 'A' end SAARC jinx Butterfingers host fade

Sports Reporter

Ruwan Kalpage's Sri Lanka A made light of history when the second national side of the one-day world champions made the most of host Bangladesh's pathetic fielding to register their first win in the third SAARC cricket tournament at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Chasing 221 for five wickets they posted 222 for five wickets with more than six overs to spare to end their jinx in this regional meet with aplomb. In fact, yesterday's success marked quite a few 'firsts' as far as Sri Lanka involvement in this invitational meet is concerned. While it meant their first victory against Bangladesh in the SAARC tournament after two ignominious losses in the earlier two editions, it also turned out to be their first win in the tourney since its inception way back in 1992, a fact that got drowned in the din of disappointment over Bangladesh's shabby fielding and the consequent ouster of the hosts from the reckoning for a berth in Friday's final.

The premature exit of Bangladesh, the finalists of the second edition in 1994, with one match to spare against defending champions India A on Wednesday, was marked by fielding completely unworthy of a country aspiring international standard. The butterfingers' Bangladeshis fielders dropped as many as five catches allowing Sri Lanka to make the fairly fighting total of 220 rather inadequate at the end of the day.

Naveed Nawaz, the man tipped as one of the certain inclusions in the Sri Lankan national squad in near future, led the islanders' victory charge with a handy but robust 88. The left-handed number three batsman, adjudged man-of-the-match ahead of Bangladesh's Sanwar Hossain who scored a well-made 76 on his debut, hit nine fours and a sixer in his 106-ball vigil. A member of the Sri Lanka A side in the previous SAARC meet, Naveed however owed his match-winning knock to Bangladeshis fielders who dropped a few catches of him with two of them being real sitters once when he was on 23 and his side struggling at 96 for three in 30 overs.

Zakir Hossain, the culprit on that occasion, failed to cling to a straight forward catch at deep mid wicket off off-spinner Naimur Rahman Durjoy. This relieve by the debutant right-arm seamer, not only gave the left-hander a new lease of life, but also decisively swung the pendulum on Sri Lanka's way. And that was the beginning of the rot, the latter part of the match was mere extension of an exhibition of poor catching and fielding by the local boys. As if one was not enough fellow right-arm seamer Hasibul Hossain, the man who waged a lone battle on behalf of Bangladesh in the previous match against Pakistan A was the next man to

contribute in the seemingly endless process of giving new lease of life to Naveed. He dropped Naveed at long-off while the left-hander was five short of his fifty after having covered the ground and positioned him well for the catch. Naveed part, Jayantha and skipper Ruwan, who remained unbeaten on 31 at the kill, had also their share of charmed life in the hands of their opponents with slippery palms.

After surviving those close calls, Naveed never looked behind to guide his side close to victory before he holed out to deep in the 41st over, leaving Sri Lanka at 196/5.

Coming into bat at number three, Naveed shared 47 runs for the third wicket with Jayantha before the latter departed for 26. He added vital 71 runs for the fourth wicket with Waragoda and then featured in a run-a-ball 48 run stand with his skipper Kalpage who did not only succeed in exacting revenge against Bangladesh but also raised the possibilities of a maiden Sri Lanka entry in the SAARC final. Leading the table with three points including their share of one from the awarding by default of their rain-spilled tie against India A, the Lankans have one match at hand against Pakistan A on Tuesday.

Bangladesh had defeated Sri Lanka by seven wickets in their first meeting in 1992 before a five-wicket win in the second version of the meet in 1994.

But for Bangladesh, the day began rather promisingly once skipper Akram decided to bat first after winning the toss.

Despite a rather slow start, crawling to 100 in 30.3 overs, Bangladesh raised the vision of a score in the vicinity of 250 with Akram in full cry and debutant Sanwar Hossain out with a mission to do justice to his ability. Together they put on 113 runs for the fourth wicket.

Akram who broke the shackles of the water-tight Sri Lanka fielding, with a huge sixer scored 54 off 63 balls with the help of four fours and two massive over boundaries. While his captain provided the best befitting his huge stature, Sanwar the slender right-hander scored a work-manlike 76 which featured seven well-timed boundaries, most of them fine strokes in front of the wicket. The 130-ball vigil came to end when he tried to pull Dulip Liyanage the Sri Lankan medium pacer who finished with four wickets for 42.

The good work of the two which extended upto the 45th over the Bangladesh innings was badly let down by those who followed them at the wicket. Six wickets tumbled for 30 runs as tight-fielding by the Sri Lankans coupled with poor understanding of the requirements of one day cricket by Bangladeshis batsmen made a mere of hosts' dream of a really safe total. Two batsmen—Ena-

mul Haq and Naimur Rahman became run out victims to kill the tempo of an ascending run rate and the pity of it all was that it all happened due to poor or no application of the basics of the game. This, however, could not take anything away from an otherwise thoroughly athletic exhibition of the Sri Lankan fielding epitomised in a brilliant caught and bowled of Athar Ali by skipper Kalpage and a throw from the deep by Waragoda that found Enam short of the crease.



SCOREBOARD

BANGLADESH				
Athar c & b Kalpage	37			
Javed Omar c Jayantha b Liyanage	0			
Jahangir c Jayantha b Liyanage	7			
Sanwar Hossain c Anurasiri b Liyanage	76			
Akram Khan st Desanayaka b Chandana	54			
HH Shanto b Liyanage	9			
NR Durjoy run out	16			
Saiful Islam b Kalpage	0			
EH Moni run out	1			
KM Pilot not out	3			
Zakir Hossain not out	1			
Extras: (4-b, 5-nb, 7-w)	16			
Total: (for 9 wickets in 50 overs)	220			
Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-25; 3-75; 4-88; 5-194; 6-200; 7-208; 8-211; 9-218.				

SRI LANKA A				
Ruviri Piers c Pilot b Shanto	12			
Chaminda Mendis c Javed b Zakir	8			
Naveed Nawaz c Moni b Saiful88	88			
Sanwar Jayantha c Durjoy b Moni	26			
Waragoda c Pilot b Athar	17			
Ruwan Kalpage not out	31			
Upul Chandana not out	11			
Did not bat: P. Desanayaka, D. Liyanage, M. Villavarayan and D. Anurasiri.				
Extras: (3-lb, 2-nb, 24-w)	29			
Total: (for 5 wickets in 43.2 overs)	222			
Fall of wickets: 1-21; 2-30; 3-77; 4-148; 5-196				

Bowling				
Shanto	8.2	0	40	1
Zakir	8	0	36	1
Saiful	9	0	44	1
Athar	8	1	40	0
Durjoy	5	0	21	0
Moni	2	0	11	0
Akram	3	0	27	0

Result: Sri Lanka A won by 5 wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Naveed Nawaz (Sri Lanka A).

The post-match parley

Sports Reporter

Fielding made all the difference in yesterday's match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

A demoralised Gazi Ashraf Lipu, the Bangladesh team manager, encapsulated his views while talking to the press at the players' lounge after his boys suffered their second defeat in a row which ultimately shattered their dream of reaching the final of the four-nation third cricket tournament.

"Today, I think, the fielding lets us down. Our boys dropped at least six regulation catches which you do not afford in any international match. Especially, the most successful batsman Naveed was dropped four times and that eventually turned out as the main factor for our defeat," said a seemingly impassive Lipu.

"Look at the Lankans, they took few brilliant catches and saved at least 30 runs with their impressive fielding. Had our boys done the same or even something close to that, we could have been in opposite frame of mind by winning the match," remarked Lipu with a tinge of resentment.

The former national captain, however, tried to pick up

the pieces while answering to a question whether such poor show would affect our performance in the next ICC Trophy or not, saying, "Well, it would have been better had we won today. But don't think the defeat will have much bearing in our ICC campaign. The teams we will be facing in the ICC are not at par with these Indian, Pakistani and Sri Lankan teams."

When asked the differences he observed between the first match and yesterday's second tie, Lipu replied optimistically, "Our batting has definitely improved. Although we had a sluggish start and failed to capitalise slog overs effectively following the departure of Akram and Sanwar, I think 220 was quite a fighting total at the end. Bowling was also satisfactory though not up to the mark as they failed to bowl according to the field setting. Bowlers failed to do what they should have done while defending a target like 220. The fielding was simply horrendous and the way our boys dropped catches was unbelievable."

He was full of praises for debutant Sanwar who played an ebullient innings for the hosts. "I think today I have seen the best innings possible for a debutant as far Bangladesh team is concerned and I wish he will try

and continue his career with such performance to bolster our batting."

It was an echo of Lipu's comments when Akram Khan, the skipper of Bangladesh, took on the press.

"It's the fielding that deprived us of a likely win. We must improve our mundane fielding if we want to win a match," said a disappointed Akram.

About his three expensive overs which allowed the winners to collect 27 runs, pulled a face saying, "It was the team decision that I should bowl today as the sixth bowler. The decision backfired."

When asked if they are going to stick by the same strategy in the next match against India, a confident Akram assured to do better if he bowls.

When Lipu and Akram were cursing the fielding, their victorious Sri Lankan counterparts—Rumesh Ratnayake and Ruwan Kalpage—were underlining their impressive teamwork for their maiden victory in the four-nation tourney.

"We fielded well and restricted the home side for 220. Then our boys batted well and we won the match with couple of overs to spare. Everything went according to our home-working. I am especially happy to beat Bangladesh because we were losers in our previous two outings in 1992 and 1994."

Commenting on Bangladesh, Rumesh said, "Your cricket has improved a lot under Gordon's supervision and I think it will continue. I wish Bangladesh a success in the ICC Trophy and hope to see them in the next World Cup."

Sri Lanka skipper Ruwan Kalpage observed that their positive attitude led them to the victory.

"We were a bit anxious at the beginning of our innings. But when I saw Naveed got settled, I was sure of the victory," said Kalpage.

When asked whether they had any problem in playing on the artificial turf, Kalpage said, "I myself and Upul Chandana had earlier played on synthetic turf in the Hong Kong six-a-side tournament last year and gathered some experience there. But for the other players, it was a new ground. But I think that did not bother us."

About reaching the final Kalpage said, "We are still not thinking of the final. We will like to proceed match by match and if we reach the final, only then we will try to win the trophy."

BEXIMCO tennis Danai, Jin Kim win crowns

Udomchoka Danal of Thailand and Hee Jin Kim of Korea emerged boys' and girls' singles champions in the BEXIMCO Eleventh Bangladesh international junior tennis championships yesterday, reports UNB.

Udomchoka defeated Indian Manoj Mahadevan 6-4, 6-4 in the morning while Hee Jin Kim lifted crown overcoming her Thai Opponent Viratprasert Suchnun 4-6, 6-1, 6-3 in the afternoon at the Ramna Tennis Complex.

Final matches of boys' and girls' doubles will be held today. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad is expected to be the chief guest at the closing ceremony on the day.

BCCI invites Bangladesh to Wills Trophy

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh national cricket team will take part in the Wills Trophy in India from next season.

This was informed by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP while talking to the reporters yesterday afternoon during the lunch break of the SAARC cricket match between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka A.

"We have already started playing in the Wills Cup in Pakistan from this season and in response to our request, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has also agreed to allow us in their biggest domestic tournament which involves eight best teams of the Ranji Trophy."

Saber said that the BCCI accepted Bangladesh's proposal in its working committee meeting which was held in Bombay last week. BCB vice-president Syed Ashraf Haque attended the meeting.

Besides, the BCB boss also said that Bangladesh would arrange an international cricket tournament in Dhaka next season. However, he declined to say the date and how many countries they would invite.

Syed Ashraf Haque, who was also present during the cogitation, said an umpire from Bangladesh would be included in the Asia Cup umpires' panel which will be held in Colombo next July.

He said he attended two meetings during his four-day visit to Bombay. After the BCCI meeting, a meeting of the Asian Cricket Council was also held where he was included in a four-member technical committee for Asia Cup. Majid Khan and Asif Iqbal of Pakistan and one from Sri Lanka are the other three members.

STATS AT A GLANCE

	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka A
After 5 overs	13/1	20/0
"10	30/2	36/2
"15	51/2	47/2
"20	66/2	73/2
"25	84/3	91/3
"30	97/3	124/3
"35	109/3	160/4
"40	143/3	194/4
"45	192/4	222/5
"50	220/9	(in 43.2 over)

5-nation hockey in Pakistan next month

MELBOURNE, Feb 22: Seasoning rookie international players and establishing team roles will be a higher priority for Australian men's field hockey coach Terry Walsh than winning a six-match home series against Pakistan later this year, reports AFP.

The Australian Hockey Federation Thursday announced the six-match series, starting in Perth on May 21 and winding up in Melbourne on June 1.

The other games are planned for Adelaide (May 24 and 25), Sydney (May 28) and Canberra (May 31).

"We also have an invitational tournament in Pakistan next month and we will pick the squad next week," said Walsh.

"We need to expose these youngsters to as much international competition as we can."

Also competing in the invitational will be the Netherlands, Germany and England.

Walsh said winning was still an objective of his side whenever it played, but the main aim of his four-year tenure was to win gold at the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

"Our objective is to win every time we play, but our main goal is to form a team together for the 2000 Games in Sydney," Walsh said.

"For the past 15 to 20 years we've done extremely well between Olympics but now we are concentrating on the Sydney Games."

The Australian team underwent wholesale changes when Walsh replaced head coach Frank Murray last year and he took 13 rookies in a squad of 16 to the Champions' Trophy in Madras late last year, where Australia was last of six teams.

TODAY'S MATCH

Third SAARC Cricket Tournament:
(Venue: Dhaka Stadium)
India A vs Pakistan A (9:15 pm)
Umpires: Nadir Shah (Bangladesh) and I Ananappa (Sri Lanka)
Match adjudicator: Yusuf Rahman Babu.
Lunch break: 12:45 pm to 1:25 pm.



Naveed Nawaz, who was instrumental for Sri Lanka's maiden victory in SAARC cricket tournament, is seen pulling vigorously during his blazing knock of 88.

Delving into a defeat

By Zayd Almer Khan

This time they truly outdid themselves. At least five dropped catches, several missed run-out opportunities and horrendous ground-fielding. At the rate Bangladesh was mis-fielding yesterday, they could have been playing a school eleven and still lose the match.

After their ignominious defeat to Pakistan on Wednesday, most thought that it could not get any worse. Well, it just did. Bangladesh continued their defiant consistency in playing outrageously sub-standard cricket as they lost to the Sri Lanka A team yesterday.

It was not the defeat, however, that triggers such harsh words, but rather the shameless insistence with which they courted disaster.

It was a classic case of grasping defeat from the brink of eminent victory. Being in the driver's seat at some point during both innings, the hosts voluntarily handed over the leash to their opponents time after time, running a dagger through the hearts of hapless spectators.

Defeat to the second eleven of the world champions, regardless of the fact that we had not lost to them in two previous encounters, is in no way an embarrassment. But what is dis-

heartening is our team's consistent failure to make most of the resources and talent available to them. At least in this tournament so far, they definitely have not played upto their optimum potential, leading to questions asking if they ever will.

Manager Gazi Ashraf Lipu, in his team's defence, said that at the ICC-level we will not have to face such high-quality opponents. But that is no excuse to play so much below par. And let us remind Lipu that the BCB has, and very proudly at that, declared that Bangladesh is most likely to get one-day status this summer. If we do go on to achieve that ostentatious goal, will the gentleman still venture to make such a feeble excuse?

Coming back to the match, Bangladesh's batting showed some signs of improvement on Wednesday to start with but wilted away as the innings progressed.

Sanwar Hossain, making his debut for Bangladesh, showed both class and courage in making a laudable half-century. He looked comfortable on the drive and the soft nudges, but seemed to be a little wanting square of the wicket, and they have to be pounced on.

When it came to bowling, the hosts fared no better than in their previous match. The evidence — the 24 wickets conceded. In all fairness, Hasibul Hossain Shanto bowled with greater control than he did on Wednesday and Zakir Hossain proved a better choice to Anisur Rahman by far. But on the whole, the bowling was wayward, bitless and mediocre, at best.

Saiful Islam Khan, our most consistent bowler in the international arena in recent years, bowled a total of eleven wickets, unforgivable for a bowler of his experience. Enamul Huq Moni sent down successive long-hops outside leg-stump to a batsman facing his first ball. In general, short balls dominated the scene, despite continual reminders to the bowlers that it is difficult to drive on an artificial turf.

The lack of a specialist off-spinner was again badly felt. Of the spinners, Moni was erratic and Naimur Rahman Durjoy, although bowling well, never looked likely to get a wicket.

As far as fielding was concerned, it was a display of unsavoury incompetence. The team simply needs to be re-trained in holding on to simple catches and hitting the stumps more often from close distance.

Actually, yesterday's poor show prompted suggestions that the Bangladesh team go back to camp for some basic training. From what it seems, Gordon Greenidge has his job cut out for him. He may have to go as far back as to teach his team how to cup their hands together or, even, how to grip a ball. If it does so immediately, we may still have hopes of making the World Cup. But for now, those dreams look a long way ahead.



PATRICK KLUIVERT

Patrick prefers Milan

LONDON, Feb 22: Dutch superstar Patrick Kluivert has rejected a 25,000-pound-a-week chance to join Ruud Gullit's foreign legion at English Premier league club Chelsea, reports AFP.

While the Stamford Bridge player-manager has met with frustration in his bid to enlarge his already expensive and talented squad, he insists he has no interests in bringing home Englishman Paul Ince from Inter Milan.

Kluivert still only 20, is coming to the end of his contract at Ajax but has chosen to join AC Milan this summer on a four-year deal worth and annual post tax salary of 1.2m pounds.

"I wanted Kluivert but I couldn't get him, Gullit revealed on Friday."

"He made his own decision and he wanted to try things in Italy of course I made an attempt, I watched him at home, I did everything. Nobody knows that but I go to Holland often and I do my job."

"But if the player wants to make the same adventure as I did in Italy, that's OK."

But Gullit has not given up. "I've said to him maybe I will wait a year and if it does not go well then I will be back at this moment I do not expect to make any signing before the deadline."

"But I am making preparations for next season and anyone can see that we are short of

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	40 Florida city	Kazan	Aussie
1 Adam's third son	43 IRS	3 Conserva-	25 Mich.
5 Sternward	47 Volume	4 Last car	26 Greet the
8 Blizzard	49 Poise	5 Saunter	the villain
12 Lotion	50 Art Deco	6 Inclement	27 Appo-
13 "Ostenta-	51 Main-	7 "The	mattox VIP
14 California	52 Pre-	8 Clark	28 Geology
15 Oscar	53 Diploma	9 Actress	division
16 Plovers' kin	54 Calendar	10 Singer	34 More
18 Workers' compensation	55 Buggy	11 Sagacious	35 Neighbor
20 Quzo flavor	56 Incense	12 Bugle call	of Turkey
21 "Speechen	57 Coarsely	13 Spindletop	36 Spacecraft
22 Gorilla	58 Ground	22 "La Cage	ment
23 Treasured possession	59 Director	23 Elbow	37 Hang
26 Commo-	60 CHIC EFF RASH	24 Flightless	39 Score
30 Chum, in Charters	61 AWAKEEN OXACA	25 Elbow	40 Act the
31 Deceive	62 HAY TREE	26 Elbow	robot
32 Prior to	63 MOW HIGHTAIL	27 Elbow	41 Labora-
33 Code of the samurai	64 DOVE TAIL ALLOW	28 Elbow	tory discovery
36 Accordion	65 OVER POL NOLA	29 Elbow	42 The
38 Hockey star Bobby	66 SENS AND STAY	30 Elbow	Charles' pooch
39 Low sound		31 Elbow	43 Cruising

